

The Most Holy Trinity



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Secular or Sacred Culture?

Most religious and thinking people know that there has been a seismic shift in our culture from a basically Christian and religious based culture to a secular one. However, no one has adequately understood the implications of this shift for individuals and for the culture as a whole, especially in the area of morality. There are many ways to bump up against this bias toward secular values that have eclipsed Christian moral values. You might pay attention to the arts and cinema and how rarely, if ever, you encounter a movie that features a holy person, i.e. someone whose life is focused on God/Christ. One of recent memory is Mel Gibson's offering: "The Crucifixion of Christ" which certainly features a holy main character; but this movie was not made nor circulated without opposition and severe criticism. I think of "A Man for All Seasons" which actually won best picture in 1966 where the main character is a saint, Thomas More, who was executed precisely for his total embrace of Christ. But since then, holiness as such gets short shift in cinema, drama, or art and music.

I think this accounts for the pre-occupation of young people today with Superheroes, and the cinematic and financial successes of superhero movies such as Superman, Batman, Spiderman, X Men, and others of that genre, which offer us heroes who are willing to do battle against evil. I would include also moves like Harry Potter, Indiana Jones, Star Wars and Star Trek which are conceived and structured around the meta-story of the battle of good and evil where evil is defeated, by the sacrifice of courageous men and woman.

Many "so called" religious-themed movies and books cast the Church as the anti-hero and offender of goodness, as an amoral agent with its own selfish agenda [think Da Vinci Code, the Golden Compass, and the myriad of other spin-offs that depict the Church covering up the real story of Jesus which is different from the Jesus story portrayed in the Gospels]. Going against this tide are the recent books by Anne Rice who is well known for her Vampire Chronicles but wrote two books of historical fiction on Jesus of Nazareth and a personal confession of her atheism and recent return to her faith as a Roman Catholic. If this culture is going to get a good look at holiness and how it can inform and transform life, it will have to glimpse it in the lives of active Christians who have chosen to be disciples of Christ, faithful members of his body, the Church, and who live in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Help our "Clean the Statues" Project

Many thanks to all the donors who have pledged to have the statues of St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother cleaned. In addition to our anonymous donor, our parishioners Charlotte Ethier and Doris and Paul Brown, and Fr. Steve, this week we have received pledges from Erin Wade and Christian Ticehurst and Natalie and Ron Seminole. With some additional help, we could possibly also clean our beautiful Sacred Heart Statue. Please prayerfully reflect on this special request and contact the Rectory if you would like to help.

Summer

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, June 6

9:00AM Mass *In Holy Souls in Purgatory*
2:30PM Wedding *McGinley/Gerner*
4:30PM Wedding *Gordon/Connors*

Sunday, June 7

The Most Holy Trinity

10:00AM Mass *Parishioners and Benefactors of St. AJ*
11:30AM Mass *Intentions of Seth Stone*
5:00PM Mass

Monday, June 8

No 7:30AM Mass until Tuesday, September 8

Tuesday, June 9

12:05PM Mass *Mary C. Bartelle*

Wednesday, June 10

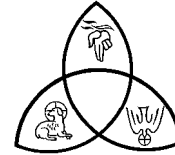
12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

Friday, June 12

No 1:00PM Mass on Friday for the Summer
4:00PM Wedding Rehearsal *O'Donnell/Kramer*
7:00PM Drexel Baccalaureate Mass at Drexel Newman

Saturday, June 13

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Seth Stone*
2:30PM Wedding *O'Donnell/Kramer*



"SALE" on Announced Masses at St. AJ?

Not really. Announced Masses are not for sale. We ask a donation of 10 dollars to have an announced Mass celebrated for a person's intention. The "sale" has nothing to do with money – but with TIME and AVAILABILITY. Here at St. AJ, most Masses during the week are open – i.e. do not have specific intentions. In many parishes, it is just the opposite. All the available Masses have intentions and people who want them must wait for an opening. So we have a situation here that is an opportunity for you. If you desire an intentioned Mass for a particular need or intention, you can easily find an opening. Most likely, even a particular date will be available, such as an anniversary, birthday, or another special date, past or future, that you want to mark by special gratitude or remembrance. Perhaps your intention is a special need for you or a loved one.

Certainly, any Catholic may offer up the Mass in which he or she participates for any good intention and graces will avail through that person's participation and sincerity. This is a genuine exercise of the royal or common priesthood of the faithful. However, the custom of requesting a priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, even when one cannot be physically present at the Mass, is a longstanding tradition in the Church. This is because the Church considers the Mass as the greatest possible prayer of intercession insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the Paschal Mystery of His death and resurrection.

Any Catholic has the privilege of doing what the universal Church does by requesting Mass to be offered for his or her own special intentions, which allow that person to participate in the intercessory power of the Mass in a particular and personal way, which doesn't restrict or limit the graces of that Mass for others who participate.

If you wish to arrange an intentioned Mass, please call the Rectory at 215-386-9732 and ask to speak with Carole.